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"WITH SWEETEST FLOWERS BRIGH'T'D, FROM VARIOUS GARDENS CULL'D WITH CARE."

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ERNESTINA;

OR,

THE FAIR GERMAN.

Continued.

Henrietta, a little embarrassed at this unexpected approach, would not let the Marquis wait, but an impudent or officious zeal had urged her to pry into this intrigue, but told in the circumstances of her meeting with him in the play the preceding evening. "I have no objection, Madam, (said the Marquis,) to your knowing every particular of my association with Ernestina; nor do I dispute the interest a young person of whom you have taken care so many years. My design, in sending her to a situation above mediocrity, was my wish that for a man to find beautiful young men, which my equals do every day in favor of money, vice, and impudence. Your friend, who enjoys a *transitory opulence*; she is rich, and in a sedentary life. Having met with a collection of good fortune at play last winter, I don't say if possessed of a vice, consider she is a widow, and I let out for Italy. This is, however, the only reason to dispose of in favor of the most pupil of your heart. My design was to give a quiet to your husband; but your departure urged me to take other measures. By the advice of Mrs. D'aneuil, I advised Ernestina of whom you yourself committed the legacy. Ever former to me, the estate where she lately resided, was it not purchased in her name, and by some person. If I have concealed my past conduct from your young friend, it was from this I think, you can not blame. Now, then, you know the whole. Judge of it at such proper; and inform me of the mystery my conduct is sufficiently cleared up; and whether or not deserved, the E. E. this should be if it were honourable and decent."

Henrietta was silent for some time. The narration of the Marquis, his generosity and the anticipated ease of his position, opened to her a together new and joyful. "And till you consent, Sir," (said she,) "that Ernestina possess the marks of popularity in the moment when I design this evening to conduct her?"

"Bubbles, (replied the Marquis,) she is already to enjoy them when you will make me happy. Have I concerned a malignant in order to lay her under any restraint? No, no. Not again repeat it, she is entirely mine, and independent; and I should deprive myself of all capability of assuming a charge against her."

Henrietta then rose up, and, running into the room, took Ernestina by the hand, and conducted her to the Marquis. "There, (said she,) give thanks to your amiable, young friend, whose beauty you need not be jealous of, whom you have nothing to fear. You was not born perhaps to put them out the gifts of friendship caused by the recessions."

Ernestina having heard what had passed, was stung with a tenderness which she durst not express in the presence of her friend.

"In the meantime the Marquis addressed himself to her thus, "Your friend, Ernestina, is but only just a party a proposal which I made myself to make you in a few days. The continual complaints of Mrs. D'aneuil, and her importunity persisting to introduce you to the world, would have urged me to do what you would have her. Your friend hath therefore spared me the embarrassment of an explanation, I was ed to come to, and which I deemed it necessary. But, therefore do you weep? (continued he, in a tender and affecting tone.) Have you any objection to the argument that is proposed to you?"

"Oh, Sir, (replied Ernestina,) how should I object to an asylum that you have made choice of! I shall always be governed by the advice of this lady, and submit to those injunctions, which you command me to observe."

"So that I lay injunctions on my dear Ernestina! (cried the Marquis.) What kind of course is that! Can I hear it without concern? Pray madam, (said he turning to Ernestina,) (she was silent, and even sorrowful,) pray prevail on your friend to treat me with kindness."

Ernestina held forth her hand, and would have spoken; but the emotion of her heart, impelling her to the apprehension of seeing the Marquis no more, bound up her tongue. "Some words more and with a sigh, suffi'ntly spoke her mind to the Marquis. He was moved, took her hand, pressed it softly, and kissed it. "We will not be parted, (said he,) I will visit you often, and you shall always be dear to me. Do you, up your tears, and look up with those charming eyes, out upon me, when you are sincerely beloved. Do me the favor, I suppose my conduct to your friend, is that I have ever indulged myself in asking any thing which would lay her low; when them down is the place not?"

Henrietta joined with the Marquis in endeavoring to console Ernestina, and they concerted together a proper measure for rendering her a cessation of this amiable girl's misery. She has still made choice of the Abby Montacute, and desired to enter it. The Marquis immediately underook to dissuade her from it, by bringing the only domestic she chose to keep, and to save her embarrassment of a servant. M. s. D'aneuil forsooth up her separation. At the Marquis's instance, Henrietta consented to take charge of Ernestina's most valuable effects, which were afterwards conveyed to the Abby. She undertook also the settlement of her friend's affairs, as well as the other mode of her Marquis's keeping the title of Ernestina.

Henrietta visited her often, and was sometimes accompanied by the Marquis, who seldom indulged himself in going alone. From the first instant, indeed, that he determined to replace Ernestina under the care of Henrietta, he had determined to overcome his passion, from the consideration that he could not make her happy, without making the demolition of his fortune, by showing contempt to his uncle, and to a

real family, where all agree it was necessary for him to cultivate. On taking a review of the state of his law-suit, on which his hopes now depended, he found that no certain judgment could yet be made of its success. If he should once lose his cause and his uncle's favor, he would of course be reduced to mendicity, being obliged to quit the service, and leave the court; in which case how could he be certain that his passion, weak ned by possession, might not be engrossed? How could he tell if his constancy would render his pleasure lasting, or that the sweets of matrimony would be sufficient to efface the bitter remembrance of the sacrifices he made to love!

There no one passed away in this manner, without effecting any change in their circumstances. At the return of spring, the Marquis prepared himself to join his regiment; both of them feeling a sensible pain at their approaching separation. Their voices were long and tender; they wept; and were so far from mutually exhorting each other to check their passion, that they repeated their vows of eternal affection.

Soon after the departure of the Marquis, Ernestina began to be tired of her quiet; and grew desirous of going into the country, to live in that agreeable manor on which had been presented to her by her lover. Hence it is represented, that it was improper for her to reside here by herself. This objection charged Ernestina, but it was soon obviated. As accident, or what her good fortune, induced her to interest herself, provided her a companion.

There was in the convent one Madame de Rancy, an agreeable wife & lady, about six and twenty years of age, who, by various circumstances supported only by a small annuity, dependent on the security of a private person who just at this time stopped payment, and absconded, making off to Holland. Ernestina transferred to this unfortunate widow the little inheritance which she enjoyed from Madame de Preney; which, with a small addition Ernestina herself made to it, more than made up for the loss she had sustained.

As a true gratitude, now add'd to the friendship which this worthy woman had conceived for Ernestina, made her soon sick upon her in the light of a beloved daughter. It was with pleasure, the other, she received the proposal of attaching herself entirely to her young beneficress, to live with her, and to accompany her to her estate in the country; to which they set out about a month after the departure of the Marquis.

Towards the end of the summer, Henrietta made just on her return to Britain, had a mind, before she went, to spend some days with Ernestina. This prudent friend, before she left her, advised her by all means not to wait for the Marquis's return in this agreeable situation; but obtained a promise from her that she would soon return to her convent.

This promise, however, soon involved poor Ernestina in great perplexity. The Marquis was on his return, en route to pass the autumn in the country, and to indulge him in the

